

Fig. 10. Beads which have the appearance of being fitted compared with fitted beads which can be rotated in 72° increments, top to bottom: green; terra-cotta or bauxite colored, Walker Coll.; green; top 3 strands simulate fitted beads; black; blue, fitted beads, courtesy of Patti except where noted.

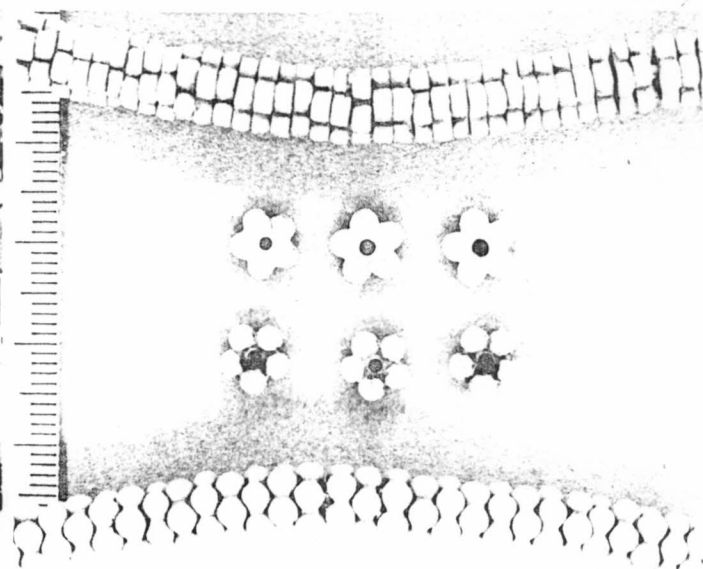


Fig. 11. Comparison of end and lateral views of fitted beads vs. simulation, essentially similar in cross-section, differing mainly by the lateral protrusions on the pentagonal extensions; both light green, courtesy of Patti.

## ADDITIONAL NOTES ON "ALTA VERAPAZ EYE BEADS"

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In several recent articles in the *Bead Journal*, a distinctive black wire wound bead with compound dots of red and white and blue and white has been illustrated from Mexico (Johnson 1975A: Fig. 1, Fig. 3a), Guatemala (Johnson 1975B: Fig. 7), and Alaska (Jenkins 1975: Fig. 5). These beads are relatively well dated in North America. Quimby (1966: 88) relates them to his Late Historic Period in the Great lakes area (1760-1820) and states that they occur in black and also blue varieties. An identical bead, except that it is (mistakenly?) identified as a drawn cane bead, was recovered from the Leavenworth Site Cemetery (Bass et al 1971: 116, plate XII N). This site dates from the period 1800-1832. Another example is illustrated from Fort Berthold I, occupied from ca. 1845-1862 or later (G. Smith 1972: Fig. 55B). Finally the blue variety mentioned by Quimby is illustrated on the cover of *Art of the Great Lakes Indians* (Flint Institute of Arts 1973) in a Sauk and Fox necklace of circa 1835.

Thus this bead was used in North America apparently during the first half of the 19th Century. To the best of my knowledge, it does not appear on 18th century sites. It is of course possible that this bead was used in Central America and Africa at slightly different times, but this early 19th Century date is probably accurate.

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### References Cited:

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*Editorial Comment: Although the spot or eye bead of the type found in Alta Verapaz, Guatemala is most thoroughly documented and dated from North American sites, it is also found in the Middle East and Africa. The latter area provides the most prolific sources, as apparent from the specimens shown in Figs. 1-3. It would be important to determine if such beads from Africa and the Middle East also date from the early 19th Century. Additional illustrations of these eye beads can be seen in A. Woodward, 1965, Indian trade goods, Oregon Archaeol. Soc: 13 (in black & white) and W.C. Orchard, 1975, Beads and beadwork of the American Indians, Mus. Amer. Indian: pl. XIX (excellent color photography).*

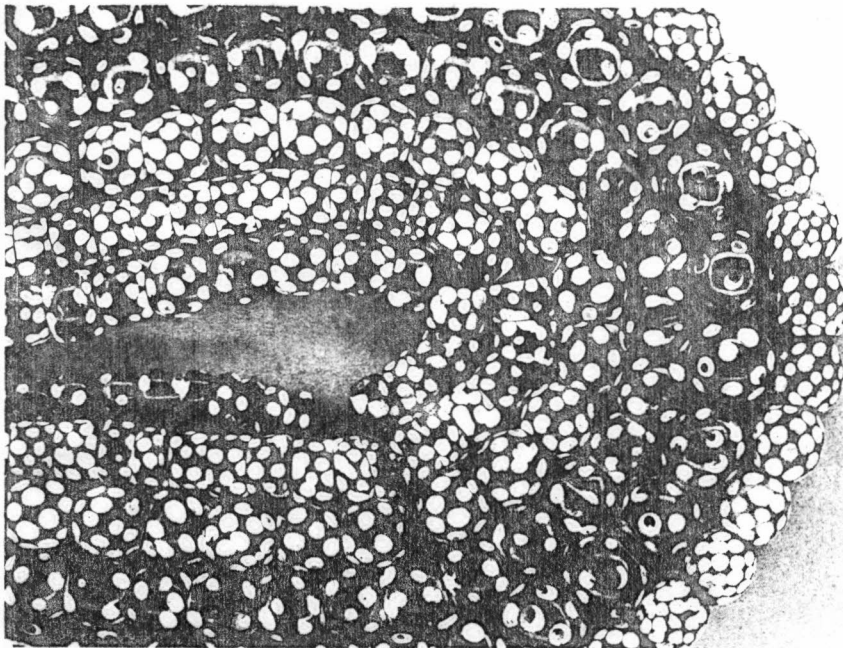


FIG. 1

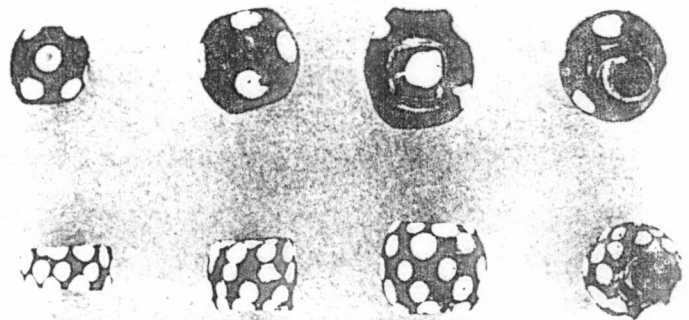


FIG. 2

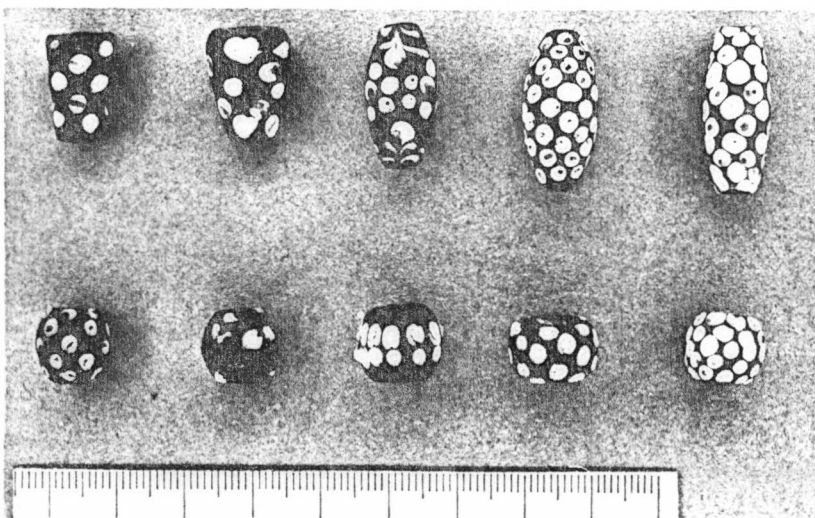


FIG. 3

Fig. 1: Six strands of black beads with white spots or eyes, imported from Africa. These illustrate the wide diversity in bead shape and spacing density of the spots. On any one bead, there are three possible color combinations among the spots or eyes: all white; white and green (almost turquoise color), white and red; white and blue, white and red. B.W. Walker Coll.

Fig. 2: Closeup of some of the more common bead shapes and patterns of spot spacing. Since many of the spots are white only, it is likely that the dot of colored glass has worn off, as most spots are now flush with the surface of the bead. It has not been possible to determine if all spots were originally impressed or raised, or if both types of decorations were used. All specimens imported from Africa; R.K. Liu Coll.

Fig. 3: Some common and uncommon versions of the Alta Verapaz bead, all from Africa. In the lower row, the 2nd and 3rd beads from the left-hand side have raised eyes. The first two beads in the upper row are long truncated cones, called funnel-shaped by Orchard (p. 103, fig. 85), the next has a combination of spots and floral polychrome decoration; this and the two right-hand specimens are barrel-shaped, which is relatively rare in this type of bead. L. Wataghani Coll.